

MOODY TELLS OUR WAR POLICY

A DECLARATION OF NEUTRALITY AT REPUBLICAN CLUB DINNER.

Both Japan and Russia Our Friends, and the Administration's Only Concern is to Keep This Country in the Pathway of Peace—Fairbanks Cuts Roosevelt Out of Our Great Presidents Message Sent From Hanna's Residence.

William Hamilton Moody, Secretary of the Navy, made the Lincoln dinner of the Republican Club last night even more notable an occasion than it is usually by delivering himself of an announcement of the Administration's policy toward the war in the Far East.

Mr. Moody spoke with the utmost deliberation, studying each phrase, apparently, before he uttered it. The diners listened with the closest possible attention, because word had gone around before the Secretary of the Navy arose that he had told several persons who sat with him at the table that he intended his speech to be an official utterance, and that it should be understood as defining to the country the attitude of President Roosevelt and his cabinet with regard to Russia and Japan.

As we meet to-night, unhappily there is a war upon the sea. We are upon friendly terms with both of the nations who are engaged. We are attached to each by a bond of peculiar sympathy. One nation endures itself to the hearts of the American people by an expression of its good will in the days of our sore trial. To the other we occupy almost the position of a foster mother, because it was our navy that broke through the blockade of the Eastern seaports and let in the sunshine of modern civilization.

We have declared our neutrality in this struggle. [Cheers and applause.] We have no interest, except that the war shall end speedily, no concern except that it may not bring into the struggle any other nations except those engaged. I can assure you that under no circumstances of which I can conceive is there any danger to the peace of our own nation. I can assure you that this Administration and its Chief know well that our dear land loves the pathway of peace [applause], and does not wish war. [Applause.]

There never was a finer time to consider the subject of the navy. There never was a time when a country should not consider its navy instantly ready for war. We won our independence upon the sea, when Cornwallis was forced to surrender by the aid of our friendly allies. The British fleet was held in the English bay at bay, while Washington, Rochambeau and Lafayette forced Cornwallis to surrender.

Reply to Senator Gorman.

Then the Secretary of the Navy went on to talk about the Department under his charge and its need for preparedness. He said:

You abandon the navy and you abandon the Monroe Doctrine. If you keep up the navy, you won't have to enforce the Monroe Doctrine. Should we as the Senator from Maryland propose referring the public statements of Senator Gorman to Maryland that the navy is "top-heavy" and its present state of efficiency makes other nations feel that we are marching around with a chip on our shoulder? I believe that the American people stand for a more efficient navy.

There was a tremendous outburst of applause and cheering at the end of Mr. Moody's speech. Folks got up and waved their arms in the air and whooped. Through all the confusion ex-Speaker Henderson made his way down the table to Mr. Moody and shook hands with him in front of the cheering throng. The gathering seemed to see something in this more than an ordinary congratulatory handshake and broke into renewed cheering.

In the course of the dinner Senator Fairbanks of Indiana read a telegram from Dr. Rixey regarding the condition of Senator Hanna. The telegram said that for half an hour before 9:45 o'clock Senator Hanna's condition showed a decided improvement; his temperature was 103 and his pulse 112. The telegram added that the patient was doing very nicely.

Regarding the telegram, Senator Fairbanks said:

"If the good wishes of this company could keep Senator Hanna alive, his life would be a long one."

There was a great shout of "That's so!" and prolonged cheering.

Great Audience Hears the Speech.

Secretary Moody was the fourth speaker on the toast list. Usually a great many diners go home by the time the fourth speaker is called upon. But so generous was the information disseminated that Mr. Moody's speech was to be of international importance that nobody went away before hearing him.

He had a mighty audience of Republican politicians around. Nor was his audience altogether lacking in Democrats of varying degrees of prominence. The gathering was a few plutocratic Democrats around the Waldorf-Astoria, in which the Republican Club gave its dinner; they wandered into the galleries and sought the best seats on the occasion. Many of them were good cheer in going among the diners on the floor.

The good Republicans who sat aloft on the dais with President Stearns and Secretary Moody were, besides the speakers and Bishop Worthington, who said grace, Charles A. Moore, Oscar S. Straus, ex-Minister to Turkey; ex-Judge John W. Aldrich, John R. Van Wormer, Gen. Thomas H. Hubbard, ex-Speaker David B. Henderson, Gen. Gov. Frank W. Higgins, Gen. Albert B. Fiske, Chancery Judge John W. Aldrich, of New York University, Major Gen. Henry C. Corbin, ex-Congressman Robert W. Taylor of Ohio, the Rev. Dr. Abbott E. Kittredge, James S. Wilson, J. F. O'Brien, Gen. James S. Clarke, President Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia University and Gen. Grenville M. Dodge.

There were nearly a hundred other good Republicans in the room. Secretary Moody was the fourth speaker on the toast list. Usually a great many diners go home by the time the fourth speaker is called upon. But so generous was the information disseminated that Mr. Moody's speech was to be of international importance that nobody went away before hearing him.

President Stearns' Address.

It was nearly 10 o'clock when President Stearns rose to begin the oratorical fireworks. His appearance was greeted with a cheer from the members of the club, and they all went up into the gallery boxes to have their coffee and to listen to the oratory.

In honor of their arrival the hundreds of lights of the ballrooms which had been dimmed through the gastronomic exercises, were turned on to their full power and the great red and blue and gold monogram which hung over President Stearns' head burst into a blaze of glory.

Every diner had before him, it was seen in this heightened illumination, a small bust of Lincoln, which was the source of the dinner.

THREE-CENT MUNICIPAL LINE.

Brackbridge's Plan for Railroad Connecting East River Bridges.

Public Works Commissioner John C. Brackbridge of the Borough of Brooklyn issued yesterday a statement advocating "the construction, by the city, of a railroad connecting the two East River bridges by an elevated line in both Manhattan and Brooklyn, thus forming a loop railroad through both boroughs, permitting the operation of loaded trains in both directions to and from each of the boroughs at the same time."

Mr. Brackbridge says the construction of such a line, about eight miles long, would cost \$10,000,000 and would afford seating accommodations for all of the 315,000 passengers crossing during the rush hours. Charging a fare of three cents, the city would be able to pay 3½ per cent. interest on the construction bonds.

OUTDID HIS SON IN LOVE.

George Vaughn of Salem, Mass., Wins the Girl Whom His Son Sought.

SALEM, Mass., Feb. 12.—This city is interested over the announcement of the engagement of Miss Bessie Norton Dane, one of the leading society girls of Salem, to George Vaughn, a millionaire widower. Miss Dane is in her twentieth year, while Mr. Vaughn is more than twice her age and is the father of Dwight Vaughn, a schoolmate of the young woman. Every one supposed that young Vaughn would one day become her husband.

When the young man graduated from the high school in 1901 he was attentive to Miss Dane, and for two years up to last summer the neighbors had it all settled that Dwight and his school companion would make a match. One day last summer the young man's father was introduced to Miss Dane by Dwight, when they were on a yachting trip, and he soon outdid the boy in attentions to her. Last fall Dwight suddenly went abroad and his father's engagement has just been announced.

Miss Dane is a charming young woman and an active worker in the Congregational Church.

60 CARRIED DOWN LADDERS.

Firemen Rescue Women and Children Cut Off in Tenement Blaze.

Nearly sixty persons, most of whom were women and children, were rescued yesterday from the double-deck, six-story tenement at 216 and 218 East 118th street, and the firemen had much difficulty in preventing some of the women from jumping from the front fire escapes.

The fire started in the basement of 216. It spread to the dumbwaiter shaft and to the stairway between the buildings, and before the firemen arrived the fire escapes realized their danger escape by the stairways was cut off by smoke and flames. When the firemen arrived the fire escapes in the front of the building were crowded with frightened women and children.

August Behrman, owner of the buildings, who lives on the second floor of 216, was going into the hallway when the flames shot up through the basement stairway. He worked his way through the smoke to his rooms and carried out his wife, who is an invalid.

When Truck 14 arrived the firemen put up two extension ladders and then began taking the tenants from the fire escapes. The fire was confined to the first floor of 216 and was out in an hour. The damage was \$1,500, and no one was hurt.

Fire Marshal Seery said that the fire looked suspicious, and that it might have been started by a person. He found four young men in the hallway of the building who were unable to tell what they wanted and were turned over to the police. But when it was found that nothing had been stolen they were released.

J. TOWNSEND THORPE HELD.

Arrested in Richmond for Threatening to Kill Mrs. Lloyd, a Singer.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 12.—J. Townsend Thorpe of New York is under arrest here on a variety of charges, the gravest of which is a threat to kill Mrs. Anite Lloyd, a young singer, who opened a studio here recently. He is further charged with having failed to pay his hotel bill and with being a suspicious character.

Thorpe has been here several days. He is a case of 30 years old and dressed well and in his right mind. He says he has known Mrs. Lloyd well for several years, but denies that he made any threat to kill her.

It is said that Mrs. Lloyd is the wife of an official in New York, but that the couple do not now live together. The police department was notified to-night that Mr. Lloyd would be here to-morrow to take the part of his wife in the difficulty.

A YOUNG GIRL FIREBUG.

She Wore a Tam O' Shanter and Tried to Burn a Flathouse, Police Think.

A new firebug in the shape of a thirteen-year-old girl in a red Tam O' Shanter and a red jacket is being sought for by the West Forty-seventh street police. One of the servants of the flathouse at 100 West Forty-sixth street discovered a cloud of smoke in the hallway at about 7 o'clock last night, and the janitor found a small heap of sticks and papers smoldering at the foot of the staircase.

An Italian watchman across the street said that shortly before the fire was discovered he had seen a little girl who wore a Tam O' Shanter gathering sticks and paper. She went into the hallway he said, and soon departed.

KILLED TWO ROBBERS.

Band of Bank Thieves Driven Off by the Citizens of St. George, S. C.

ST. GEORGE, S. C., Feb. 12.—A band of armed robbers who came into St. George early this morning to break open the bank and post office got a warm reception, two of their number being killed. Last night the Mayor received a telephone message from a nearby town warning him of the intended raid of the bank, and when the outlaws arrived practically the entire town was under arms and waiting for them.

The robbers were working in twos and fours. The first two, when halted, responded by opening fire on Reed and Stokes, two young men, who fired in return, killing one of the outlaws. His confederate came up in time to get the body. While going to the aid of Reed and Stokes, Chief of Police Nimus and Bill Sears, a negro, were fired on, the chief being slightly wounded. Sears shot and killed one of the attacking party and was himself wounded slightly.

After this the robbers fled, and all efforts to capture them have been unsuccessful.

THE HOT SPRINGS OF ARKANSAS.

A case of Government. Ideal winter resort. Indorsed by Government for rheumatism and many other ills. Conf. 100 hotels of all grades. For complete information address Bureau of Information, Hot Springs, Ark.—Ad.

HANNA WAS VERY NEAR DEATH

A COLLAPSE THAT STOPPED THE HEART'S ACTION.

His Physicians for a Time Believed He Was Dead—He Finally Rallied Under the Effects of Powerful Stimulants and Oxygen—Temperature Reduced to 101.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Senator Hanna was very near death this afternoon, and to-night, according to his physicians and the members of his family, who constantly hover near the door of the sick chamber, his life is hanging by a very slender thread. At 5 o'clock this afternoon there was apparently no hope for the Senator's recovery. Indeed, for a very few moments even the physicians believed he was dead. Not the faintest pulsation of the heart could be detected, and his breathing had apparently stopped. To-night the Senator has a fighting chance, but the odds are against him.

The powerful stimulants administered during the hours he was in a state of collapse have had their effect on his weakened heart, the saline solution hypodermically injected has bettered his sluggish circulation and the free use of oxygen has restored breath to his body. But the recovery must show a marked improvement within the next forty-eight hours before the attending physicians will permit the hopes of the family and friends to rest upon anything real and tangible.

The Senator's collapse this afternoon was absolutely unexpected. The physicians had paid their morning visit and the patient's condition was such that Dr. Osler returned to Baltimore and Dr. Rixey left the hotel, leaving only Dr. Carter of Cleveland, the Hanna family physician, within call of the sickroom.

For three hours after the chill was marked, the beginning of the collapse was noted. Dr. Carter worked alone, aided only by the trained nurse. Every resource of science and skill was used, and when Dr. Osler arrived from Baltimore to-night with his assistant, Dr. Fuchter, Dr. Carter was worn out and exhausted and was obliged to leave the sickroom and seek much needed rest.

At 11 o'clock to-night the Senator had rallied to some extent and the following bulletin indicated his condition: "Senator Hanna has reacted from the chill and depression of the afternoon. His temperature is 101, pulse 120, respiration 32. He is resting quietly."

At half past 11 o'clock, Elmer Dover, the Senator's private secretary, who had just come from the sickroom, said that there was every indication that the Senator would pass a reasonably comfortable night. He added that oxygen was now being administered only at intervals of fifteen minutes, and that it was having a good effect on the respiration. Dr. Fuchter will remain with the patient all night and Dr. Osler, the eminent Baltimore diagnostician, will be in the hotel within call.

At 12 o'clock last night when Senator Hanna's temperature reached 104.3, the highest point during the progress of his illness, Dr. Carter, who was in attendance, felt assured that the crisis would be reached in a short time. The patient was restless all the latter part of the night and the unfavorable symptoms were reflected in the morning bulletin at 8 o'clock, which said that his temperature was 104 and the pulse more rapid, 112, with respiration 23. The irritability of the stomach had disappeared. During the forenoon he rested somewhat more comfortably and at noon the following bulletin was issued:

"At noon Senator Hanna was resting quietly. Temperature, 101.9; pulse, 102; respiration, 30. He continues to retain nourishment. No complications."

During the forenoon saline solutions were injected at intervals beneath the patient's skin, but not in the veins. The physicians explained that this was done to neutralize the effect of the fever poison, and not as an extreme measure.

At 2 o'clock the Senator had a severe and absolutely unexpected relapse, which started with a chill. His pulse increased to 130, his respiration to 38. His extreme weakness was increased by a movement of the bowels at this hour. Powerful stimulants were hypodermically injected, oxygen was administered. Dr. Rixey was sent for and a telephone message was sent to Dr. Osler in Baltimore.

At 4 o'clock the Senator's pulse was fluttering and apparently he was in extremis. His breathing was barely perceptible. Messages were sent to Dr. Hanna's family. Senator's son in Cleveland; to Mrs. Parsons, a daughter, and to other relatives and friends, saying that the Senator's condition was extremely critical. The Senator hovered between life and death from 2 o'clock until shortly before 6 o'clock, when he rallied somewhat.

Dr. Osler arrived just after the first improvement was noticed and took charge of the case. During the next two hours the physicians worked unceasingly, administering arsenic, strychnine, saline solution and oxygen, and at 8 o'clock the following bulletin was issued:

"Senator Hanna had a chill at 2 o'clock this afternoon. He reacted from it and is now in a better condition. Temperature 103.2; pulse, 112; respiration, 36."

This bulletin was supplemented by a statement from Dr. Osler to the effect that the particular crisis of to-day had passed and that Mr. Hanna was doing as well as could be expected. The most satisfactory feature of the above bulletin was with regard to respiration, and the doctors said that the constant use of oxygen was being continued.

Between 8 and 11 o'clock the Senator's condition further improved, and it was then that the physicians announced that the patient had a fighting chance. The use of heart stimulants was continued, however, and oxygen will be administered at quarter-hour intervals during the night in an effort to further reduce the respiration.

There were many callers at the Arlington to-day at regard to the Senator's condition. President and Mrs. Roosevelt both called at different times. At the Capitol the question of interest was "How is the Senator?" In the Senate and House bulletins were received by the press associations and displayed on the desks. In the House there was a constant throng of members about the bulletins.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Feb. 12.—Daniel R. Hanna and wife came in on the Cleveland Flyer, arriving here at 8:40 o'clock this evening, and left for Washington at 10 o'clock. Mr. Hanna said that reports from his father were to the effect that he was very low.

Deerfoot Farm Sales.

Made of the tender meat of dairy fed, fat, young deer, seasonally delicious and tender. Beware of imitations. Try a two-pound package. Beware of imitations. Try a two-pound package. Beware of imitations. Try a two-pound package.

RUSSIAN VESSEL BLOWN UP.

Torpedo Transport Hits a Mine at Port Arthur—65 Lost.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 12.—A report received from Admiral Alexieff says that the Russian torpedo transport Yenisei has been blown up in Port Arthur harbor. Her captain and three officers and ninety-one men were drowned.

The report says that the Yenisei struck one of her own mines. She was laying mines in the harbor when the accident occurred.

The Yenisei was a steel vessel, 300 feet long and of 2,500 tons displacement and 4,700 horse-power.

On her trial trip in 1901, just after she was launched from the Baltic works at St. Petersburg, she made 17½ knots. She had an armament of five 12-pounder and three 3-pounder rapid-firers. She was fitted with a long overhanging counter in which are cut ports through which she lowered mines.

ROSS VERDICT UPHOLD.

Estate of the Broadway Merchant Must Pay \$100,000 for Illegitimate Child.

The \$100,000 verdict against the estate of Charles Broadway Ross, the blind merchant, who died on March 3, 1902, in favor of Charles Broadway Ross, his illegitimate son, was affirmed yesterday by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. The boy was 10 years old on June 4, 1902, and his mother alleged that Ross had promised to settle \$100,000 in cash on the boy as soon as he should have completed his tenth year.

The contract was disputed by Peter W. Ross, the son and executor of the merchant, and the paternity of the child was denied. After a long trial some months ago a verdict was rendered in the full amount.

The Appellate Division holds that a contract made by the mother of an illegitimate child with the putative father may be recognized and enforced if proved, where the consideration involves the duty of supporting and caring for the child. In the present case, says the court, there appears to have been such a consideration, and the mother was abundantly proved. Ross having publicly acknowledged the child as his son and spoken to others of his \$100,000 promise.

Justice Ingraham dissents, on the ground that a valid consideration was not proved.

TRAIN KILLS A POLICEMAN.

McDonald Was Putting On His Ear Muffs and Didn't Hear the Engine.

Policeman Peter McDonald of the Kingsbridge station went out at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon to relieve Policeman Boyle on the post between Kingsbridge and Spuyten Duyvil, near the New York Central tracks.

"It's a nasty wind that's blowing," said Boyle as they met at the railroad tracks. "It cuts right through you." McDonald started up the northbound track. When he had got about 200 feet from the crossing he pulled out his ear muffs and began to put them on. Three women were at Riley's crossing, just above, with a little child, waiting for the upbound Detroit Special to pass. Mrs. Mary Dee looked out of the back window of her house and wondered why McDonald didn't get out of the way. Then the train hit him and threw him fifty feet. He was killed instantly.

The woman at the gate screamed and staggered back. The little child with them ran onto the track but was pulled away just in time by Gateman Palato.

McDonald was 46 years old. He leaves a widow and five children in his home, at Heath avenue and Boston road.

ROW IN COLOMBIAN ARMY.

Gen. Castro, Who Supports Reyes, Deposed From Chief Command.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

COLOM, Feb. 12.—Reliable news has been received here from Cartagena to the effect that the political situation in Colombia is desperate. Gen. Manjarres was appointed to replace Gen. Castro as Commander-in-Chief of the Colombian Army with Gen. Castro's knowledge.

Gen. Manjarres when he arrived at Cartagena refused to show his credentials and ignored the Governor. He received recognition at the barracks and proceeded to Calamar with a battalion of troops. Gen. Castro resented the proceedings and went up the river to get in telegraphic communication with the President. The officer next in command to Gen. Castro remained at Barranquilla with 3,500 men. A river steamer arrived at Calamar with troops for Gen. Manjarres, who proceeded to Barranquilla, which place was given over to him on Feb. 9 without the firing of a shot.

The trouble is due to the fact that Gen. Castro is supporting Gen. Reyes, the newly elected President, and Gen. Manjarres advocates Velez for the office. Further trouble is expected. It would not be surprising if fighting occurred at Cartagena.

FLORIDA IS DEAD.

Not the State, But Its Namesake, the Sea Cow, at the Aquarium.

Florida, the manatee, or sea cow, named for the genial State from which she was brought four months ago, has fallen a victim to the rigorous New York weather. With all its heat the air of the Aquarium was not salubrious enough for her and she caught pneumonia last week.

She was a rare specimen, weighing 750 pounds. Very few of her species have lived as long as she in captivity in the North. Manatees are rare, but the Aquarium managers hope to get another this summer. Florida will be stuffed and mounted in the Museum of Natural History.

GERMANY'S APPROVAL.

Thinks Hay's Plan Admirably Designed to Insure China's Tranquillity.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

BERLIN, Feb. 12.—It is stated in official quarters unofficially that the negotiations on the basis of the note of Mr. Hay are proceeding favorably.

It is asserted that the Foreign Office regards the proposals as admirably designed to insure the tranquillity of China, and is prepared to associate itself with them if Russia and Japan assent to the principle.

Russia Gets German Steamers?

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

HAMBURG, Feb. 12.—Russia has chartered two steamers of the Menzell Line. One of them, the Carl Menzell, has sailed for Vladivostok with guns and ammunition. The other will follow in a few days.

RUSSIA HITS BACK.

Warships, Off Yezo, Sink Japanese Merchant Ship.

Japanese Admiral's Report Shows That He Lost No Ships in Port Arthur Engagement, and Had Only Four Men Killed—Report That the Defeated Russian Admiral Has Been Recalled—Prisoners Taken at Chemulpo to Be Paroled—Indefinite Reports About the Plan to Send Russia's Baltic Sea Fleet to the Far Eastern Waters.

ARMIES MOVING IN COREA.

Russians Said to Be Marching South of the Yalu.

Russia has at last made an offensive move at sea. Four warships, presumably those which had been at Vladivostok, appeared off Yezo Island, north of the main island of Japan, on Thursday. They attacked two Japanese merchant ships and sank one of them. The other escaped.

There is yet no confirmation of the reported bombardment of Hakodate, the Northern Japanese port, but, if true, it is probably the work of the same squadron. The four Russian warships, which were reported as leaving Vladivostok several days ago, were the armored cruisers Rurik, Gromovoi and Rossia and the protected cruiser Bogatyr.

Admiral Togo's report to Tokio of the naval battle at Port Arthur shows that the Japanese lost no ships, but did have four men killed and fifty-four wounded.

The reports of a second engagement at Port Arthur were evidently based on belated accounts of the first fight, as THE SUN pointed out yesterday.

Though no official news is given out regarding the movements of the two armies, it is reported that the Russians are south of the Yalu in Corea. There are many predictions of an early battle.

RUSSIANS SINK MERCHANT SHIP.

Four Warships Appear Off Yezo, Probably From Vladivostok.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—The Japanese Legation announces that the Japanese merchant steamers Zensho Maru and Nakounoura Maru, while proceeding from Sakata to Otaru, were surrounded on Thursday and bombarded by four Russian men-of-war, presumably the Vladivostok squadron, off the coast of Herunashi. The Nakounoura Maru was sunk. The Zensho Maru escaped and has arrived at Fukuyama.

The Zensho Maru is of 319 tons, and was built in 1885. The Nakounoura Maru was of 1,084 tons, and was built in 1865.

WARSHIPS STILL OFF COAST OF YEZO.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—The following official telegram from the Japanese Foreign Office, dated Tokio, Feb. 11, was received by the Japanese Minister at 9 o'clock to-night:

"According to the report of the Governor of Yezo Island, two small Japanese merchant ships, Zensho Maru and Nakounoura Maru, while on their way to Otaru [a port on the western coast of Yezo Island] from Sakata [a port on the northern coast of the main island of Japan], were fired on on Feb. 11 by four Russian men-of-war, off the western coast of Oomori prefecture, and the latter was sunk, while the former had a narrow escape."

"The Russian men-of-war are still seen off the western coast of Yezo Island. They are supposed to be the first class cruisers which have been shut up at Vladivostok, and tried some time ago to join the main squadron at Port Arthur."

ARMY MOVES HIDDEN.

Forces May Be Nearing a Clash in Corea—The Baltic Fleet.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, Feb. 12.—The only important war news is that inferred from the Russian attack on two small Japanese tramp steamers. It is assumed here that if, as it appears, the Vladivostok squadron did the attacking, it is out to harry the northern coasts of Japan.

The rumor is revived that the Vladivostok squadron bombarded and wrecked Hakodate, but the source is unreliable and the statement is not regarded as probable. All else regarding this squadron is speculation.

Nothing reliable concerning the Japanese fleet has been heard since Feb. 9. The army movements are equally hidden.

ARMIES MAY BE NEARING BATTLE.

The Report of Mr. Allen, the American Minister to Corea, That There are 2,500 Japanese in Seoul is Interpreted Here as Indicating that the remainder have been conveyed further north.

There are rumors, based apparently on surmise, that the Russians are moving south from the Yalu River, but both belligerents are enforcing a most rigid censorship, and not a single grain of fact can be extracted. There are numberless reports and speculations.

THE DARDANELLES QUESTION.

The Daily News reaffirms that the Dardanelles question has been raised, but this is scouted elsewhere. Nothing more has been heard regarding the Russian Baltic fleet, and in view of the difficulties and dangers involved in any such movement the report that it is en route for the Far East is now dismissed as most improbable.

Berlin officials denied yesterday that anything was known of Russia's reported request for permission for the fleet to pass through the Kiel Canal.

The Telegraph, which lately gave conspicu-

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